

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 18, and 19 are pending in this application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1, 2, 18, and 19. By this Amendment, claims 3-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicants are canceling the withdrawn and rejected claims so that the allowed claims will issue.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Application No.: 10/099,988

Docket No.: T2171.0201

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: March 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorney for Applicants

IRB/mgs